



September 24, 2010

Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore
United States Courthouse
515 Rusk Street, Room 9513
Courtroom 9A
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: Civil Action No. 4:10-CV-01162 *consolidated with* 4:09-CV-03360; BP Exploration & Production, Inc., et al. v. National Oilwell Varco, L.P., et al.; In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division

Dear Judge Gilmore:

The parties are talking about settlement, and we would like to ask the Court extend the due date to file further briefing pending motions until no sooner than November 8, 2010, and that the Court table and hold consideration on those motions until after such briefing is filed

- Plaintiffs' motion for leave to file amended complaint: On August 30, 2010, the plaintiffs filed their opposed motion for leave to file an amended complaint. The National Oilwell Varco defendants filed their opposition on September 20, 2010. On September 22, 2010, the plaintiffs filed their reply in support of their opposed motion for leave to file an amended complaint. The parties anticipate they may want to file further briefing since this issue is tied into the pending motion for partial summary judgment addressed in the paragraph below. All parties jointly request that the Court extend the due date to file further briefing on the opposed motion for leave to file amended complaint until no sooner than November 8, 2010, and that the Court table and hold consideration on the pending motion for leave to file amended complaint. We are also filing a joint motion and agreed order on this point.
- The National Oilwell Varco defendants' motion for partial summary judgment: On September 3, 2010, the National Oilwell Varco defendants filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Counterclaim for Contractual Indemnity. The plaintiffs filed their opposition to the motion for summary judgment on Wednesday, September 22. The National Oilwell Varco defendants reply would be due on October 6, 2010. All parties jointly request that the Court extend the due date for the National Oilwell Varco defendants' reply until no sooner than November 8, 2010, and for further briefing by the plaintiffs, and that the Court table and hold consideration on this matter. We are also filing a joint motion and agreed order on this point.

We anticipate the settlement conversations will be concluded within the next three weeks.

A Limited Liability Partnership

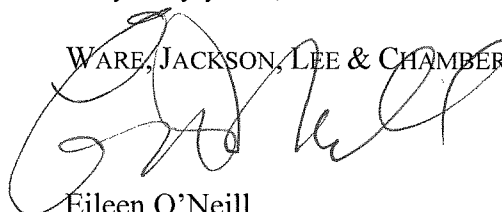
September 23, 2010

Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and of our request.

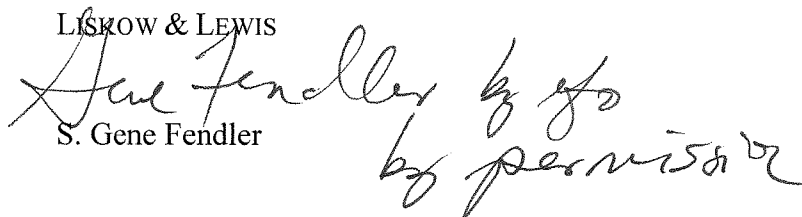
Very truly yours,

WARE, JACKSON, LEE & CHAMBERS, L.L.P.



Eileen O'Neill

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September 23, 2010

Page 3

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